Depletion of ground water

*283. SHRI BALAVANT *alias* BAL APTE:†
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra, particularly the Vidarbha region, Rajasthan and different parts of Western and Northern India including Punjab and Haryana have faced acute dry spells this year and for the preceding three years, with the result that ground water level has depleted a lot;

(b) the extent of depletion of ground water level during these years, State/region-wise; and

(c) whether any Central aid has been sought and given to meet the situation, if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) As per information received from the Indian Meteorological Department, different parts of Western and Northern India, including Vidarbha and Marathwada Regions of Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Punjab have received dry spells this year. However, the years 2002 and 2004 have been years of deficit rainfall when all the above regions have faced acute dry spell, Subnormal rainfall is one of the reasons, which has resulted in depletion of ground water level owing to lesser natural recharge. The State-wise extent of ground water depletion during these years is as follows:

Gujarat: Out of the total area of 1.96 lakh sq.km., about 1.27 lakh sq.km. (65%) area has experienced decline in ground water levels ranging from negligible to 6.36 m.

Haryana: About 29,000 sq.km. (66%) area in the State experienced depletion with decline of water level ranging from 0.01 m to 4.45 m.

Maharashtra: Out of 1198 observation wells monitored in the State, about 40% of the wells have registered decline in

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Balavant *alias* Bal Apte.

ground water levels upto 2 metres. Another 10% wells have registered decline in the range of 2 to 4 metres and 5% of the wells have shown decline more than 4 metres.

Punjab: About 39,000 sq.km. (78%) area in the State experienced depletion of ground water level with decline ranging from 0.01 m to 3.75 m.

Rajasthan: Major part of the State has experienced depletion of ground water level, decline being in the range between 1.5 m to 7.0 m.

No Central aid has been sought by the States from the Central Ground Water Board/Ministry of Water Resources to overcome the situation.

SHRI BALAVANT *alias* BAL APTE: Sir, vagaries of monsoon are there in this country and, therefore, every year we face a situation of scarcity amidst plenty because much of water goes to the earth and goes waste. It is not utilised, it is not stored and it is not permitted to seep. Therefore, Sir, the question is insofar as the water table is concerned, about water management, for the purposes of both the richness of the soil and environment, water and forests both are necessary. Only because of the pressure of international conventions, we have made some laws to protect forests. But we have not made any laws or policies for the protection of water resources. Therefore, Sir, my question is what steps the Government has taken or proposes to take for the purposes of conservation of water permitting the water to go in the land so that water table may come up even if sometimes rains fall short of the expectations.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Member. The Central Ground Water Board has identified the critical areas and semi-critical areas in the country. I have got a big list. If I read out, it will take a long time. I can lay it on the Table of the House. These critical areas are being helped with various processes of roof water system by which water goes down below and then some water channel is also there. That is being done in Gujarat and some other places. These are the various methods that we are taking. An Act was also passed which was accepted by some States, and States have yet to amend it to suit their demand. The Government is well aware of this. It has proved successful

in certain areas and in some States like Delhi roof water preservation has become mandatory. Many schools are voluntarily taking it. The Central Ground Water Board is also giving guidance and know-how. And, we will continue with that effort so that the water, which comes, is preserved for good purposes in future.

SHRI BALAVANT *alias* BAL APTE: Sir, the question was whether there is a plan for water management. It is not only the matter of the survey of critical areas. It does not amount to a plan. It is only homework for the purposes of plan. And, is there any allocation of funds, especially for this purpose, because without that you will remain only with identifying critical areas, without doing anything? Has the Government certain plans for water management? And, does that Government allocate specific funds for this purpose, which can be utilized by both, the Central Government as well as the State Governments?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, 'water' is a State Subject. The State Governments do make plans. They go to the Planning Commission and the allocation is made by the Planning Commission; I don't have the details, but we do give money through the Planning Commission for better water management and preservation of water.

प्रो॰ रामबख्श सिंह वर्मा: सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने प्रश्न के खंड ''ग'' के उत्तर में कहा है कि इस स्थिति से निपटने के लिए राज्यों द्वारा केन्द्रीय भूमि जल बोर्ड या जल संसाधन मंत्रालय से कोई केन्द्रीय सहायता नहीं मांगी गई है। मैं इस संदर्भ में माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूं कि जैसा आपने अपने उत्तर में बताया है कि विदर्भ में, मराठवाड़ा में, गुजरात में, राजस्थान में, पंजाब में, हरियाणा में और उत्तर भारत के जो दूसरे प्रदेश हैं, उनमें एक से लेकर सात मीटर तक का जल स्तर कम हुआ है और आपने यह भी कहा है कि राज्यों ने सहायता नहीं मांगी है, ऐसी स्थिति में इस समस्या को देखते हुए क्या केन्द्र की सरकार इससे निपटने के लिए स्वत: कोई प्रयत्न कर रही है?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the question was addressed to my Ministry. But the Ministry of Water Resources does not give help. For drought, it is the Ministry of Agriculture and, in certain cases, the Ministry of Home Affairs monitors it. I have got with me a list of the funds allocated in the years 2002-03 and 2003-04. But for the current year, I do not have figures with me. The list that I am having is a big list. I can read it out, or, lay it on the Table of the House, as you wish.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, you can lay it on the Table of the House.

श्री दत्ता मेघे: सभापति जी, केन्द्र सरकार ने जो परीक्षण किया, उससे पता चला कि विदर्भ में गिरावट आई हुई है और महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट ने जल संसाधन मंत्रालय को इसके लिए कोई डिमांड भेजी है।

श्री सभापति: विदर्भ में किस चीज की गिरावट आ गई?

श्री दत्ता मेघे: सर, 3 साल से पानी नहीं आया है, आज काश्तकार लोग, किसान लोग आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं। वहां बहुत बुरी हालत है। इनके पास जो फंड हैं ये महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट ने मांगे हैं। इन्होंने कहा है कि इनको कोई डिमांड नहीं मिली है, लेकिन मेरे पास पूरी इन्फॉरमेशन है कि महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट ने खास तौर से विदर्भ के लिए फंड मांगे हैं। इसको देखते हुए मंत्री महोदय क्या विदर्भ के लिए कोई खास पैकेज देंगे? यह जो सर्वेक्षण आपने किया है, उसके आधार पर क्या केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से विदर्भ की मदद करने की कोशिश करेंगे?

श्री सभापति: पैकेज देने का कोई विचार हो तो बता दीजिए।

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, Maharashtra, according to the list, was allocated Rs. 20 crores in the year 2002-03. ...(*Interruptions*)... Again, an assistance of Rs. 250.69 lakh was provided to Maharashtra for the drought of 2003-04. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री दत्ता मेघे: सभापति जी, विदर्भ में नहीं मिल रहा है। मैं विदर्भ के बारे में पूछ रहा हूं, क्वेश्चन विदर्भ का है ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति: इनको जवाब पूरा करने दीजिए।

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, Vidarbha is in Maharashtra itself, ...(*Interruptions*)... The further allocations, from out of the allocated funds, is made by the State Government. ...(*Interruptions*)... I cannot give allocate directly to Vidarbha. It is for the Maharashtra Government.

श्री दत्ता मेघे: सभापति जी, वह सब पैसा इधर-उधर चला जाता है। सर्वेक्षण विदर्भ का हुआ, पैसे उनको मिले, लेकिन विदर्भ में पैसा नहीं आया। जिस काम के लिए सर्वेक्षण किया, वह पैसा क्या उनको नहीं मिलना चाहिए?

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: सभापति जी, मंत्री ने अपने उत्तर में बताया है कि राजस्थान में पानी के स्तर में जो गिरावट आई है, वह डेढ़ मीटर से सात मीटर तक आई है। इस जल की गिरावट को रोकने के लिए राज्य सरकार ने कई ऐनीकट और कई नदियों पर बांध बनाकर सिंचाई के लिए, पानी की व्यवस्था के लिए योजनाएं आपके पास भेजी हुई हैं। जो ऐनीकट योजनाएं हैं, उनको आप कब तक मंजूर कर देंगे, कब तक स्वीकृत करके भेज देंगे, जिससे जल स्तर बढ़ सके?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I will go into the details and let him know. If there is any specific scheme with him, he can send to me, I will get it addressed.

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: यह आई हुई है, आप क्या देखेंगे। आप पता लगाएं।

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Definitely, I will do it for you. That is why, I am here. You give me the scheme.

श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी: सर, यह पूरी राष्ट्रीय चिन्ता का विषय है और इसलिए इस पर मिनिस्ट्री को एक बड़ा, पूरा प्लान बनाना चाहिए। खास तौर पर जो शहरी इलाके हैं, वहां पर पानी 100-200 फीट तक नीचे चला गया है, दिल्ली का यह हाल है कि यहां पानी 100-200 फीट नीचे चला गया है, तो यहां पर रेन वॉटर हार्वेस्टिंग के लिए अरबन डेवलपमेंट मिनिस्ट्री या जो रोड कंस्ट्रक्शन की मिनिस्ट्री है, उनके साथ मिल कर क्या आप कोई ऐसा प्लान बना रहे हैं या नहीं, जिसमें यह कंपलसरी किया जाए कि जितनी बिल्डिंग्स बनें, जितनी नई कॉलोनियां बनें, जितने मकान बनें, उनके साथ रेन हार्वेस्टिंग का पूरा प्लान तैयार करके, उसे साथ लेकर कंस्ट्रक्शन के साथ-साथ शुरू से किया जाए, उसके बगैर उनको कंप्लीशन सर्टिफिकेट न मिले?

شری شاہد صدیقی : سر، یہ پوری راشٹریہ چنتا کا وشے ہے اور اسلئے اس پر منسٹری کو ایک بڑا پورا پلان بنانا چاہئے۔ خاص طور پر جو شہری علاقے ہیں، وہاں پر پانی سو، دو سو فٹ تک نیچے چلا گیا ہے، دہلی کا یہ حال ہے کہ یہاں پانی سو، دو سو فٹ نیچے چلا گیا ہے، تو یہاں پر رین واٹر ہارویسٹنگ کے لئے اربن ڈیولپمنٹ منسٹری یا روڈ کنسٹرکشن کی منسٹری ہے، ان کے ساتھ مل کر کیا آپ کوئی ایسا پلان بنا رہے ہیں، یا نہیں، جس میں یہ کمپلسری کیا جائے کہ جتنی بلڈنگس بنیں، جتنی نئی کالونیاں بنیں، جتنے مکان بنیں، سڑکیں بنیں، ان کے ساتھ رین ہارویسٹنگ کا پورا پلان تیار کر کے، اسے ساتھ لے کر کنسٹرکشن کے ساتھ ساتھ شروع سے کیا جائے، اس کے بغیر ان کو کمپلیشن سرٹیفکٹ نہ ملے۔

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, there are three types of drought, that is, meteorological, agricultural and hydrological. To overcome these three factors, the Ground Water Boards do give service and suggestion

† [ ]Transliteration of Urdu Script.

to various State Governments. We are happy that now in metropolitan cities, awareness among the citizens has arisen and they themselves have taken some steps. In certain areas of Delhi, it has been restricted by the fact...

श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी: मैं आपसे यह पूछ रहा हूं कि आपकी मिनिस्ट्री क्या कर रही है?

شری شاہد صدیقی : میں آپ سے یہ پوچھ رہا ہوں کہ آپ کی منسٹری کیا کر رہی ہے؟

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It is not my Ministry's duty to go and do it. We can promote and motivate people. We are doing it. I take your suggestions that more awareness schemes should be started. But, in metropolitan cities, awareness among the citizens is less. The situation, as you said, in Rajasthan is very bad. But the Rajasthan Government is now taking steps and the Central Water Board is helping them and the situation will improve in future.

श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी: आप दूसरे मंत्रालयों के साथ मीटिंग क्यों नहीं करते। इसके ऊपर एक प्लान तो बनाइए।

شری شاہد صدیقی : آپ دوسرے منترالیوں کے ساتھ میٹنگ کیوں نہیں کرتے۔ اس کے اوپر ایک پلان تو بنایئے۔

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question.

Revision of excise duties on LPG based appliances

*284. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations seeking reduction in excise duties on LPG based appliances from 16 per cent to 8 per cent;

(b) whether it is a fact that high excise duties on such consumer goods are allowing cheap import destroying thereby the Indian industry;

(c) to what extent Government would rationalize the excise duty structure to ensure that Indian producers are not handicapped by cost — push inflation in production of consumer items like LPG based stoves etc.; and

† [ ]Transliteration in Urdu Script.